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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Die Polarforschung, ihre Ziele und Ergebnisse. Von Eugen Oberhummer. 53 pp. Vorträge des Ver. zur Verbreitung naturwissens. Kenntnisse in Wien, Vol. 48, Heft 17, Wien, 1908.

A lecture by the Professor of Geography in the University of Vienna, giving a summary of polar endeavor, its purposes and results. Dr. Oberhummer, writing before the attainment of the North Pole, said he had no doubt that this event was approaching; and when the Pole was reached, the value of the achievement would not appear very important and systematic and scientific exploration would again take the foreground.

The United States, with Excursions to Mexico, Cuba, Porto Rico and Alaska. Handbook for Travellers by Karl Baedeker. Fourth Revised Edition. cii and 724 pp., 33 Maps, 48 Plans and Index. Karl Baedeker, Leipzig; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1909. M. 15.

It was a peculiarly difficult task to write a first rate guide book of a country so vast and so rapidly changing as the United States. From the first, however, Baedeker's United States was a great success and the succeeding editions have kept it up to date. The effort to make this book comparable with those in the same series on the countries of Europe was an arduous task and the publisher is to be congratulated on the success attained. The work appeals not only to the foreign but also to the American traveller and in the present edition more emphasis is given, than in the earlier issues, to many places that are interesting from their association with American history and literature. Praises for Baedeker are much like commendation of the alphabet but it may, at least, be said that we have no publication in our country that fills the place of this Handbook; and we shall be glad if, in a generation or two, we may be able to fill any American book in the general trade, with such superior and efficient maps as are to be found in this volume.

Geographisches Handbuch. Allgemeine Erdkunde, Länderkunde und Wirtschaftsgeographie. Unter Mitarbeit hervorragender Fachmänner, herausgegeben von Albert Scobel. Fünfte neubearbeitete und vermehrte Auflage. In zwei Bänden. Erster Band—Allgemeine Erdkunde, Länder- und Staatenkunde von Europa. xvi and 957 pp., 522 Illustrations and maps in